



CONGRESSMAN JOHN L. MICA

Report from Congress

Congressman Mica is sponsoring several Small Business and Trade events. These workshops and seminars will provide information on federal programs and initiatives that support business and assist in expanding export and trade activities. You may RSVP at any of Rep. Mica's 7th Congressional District Offices.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FAIR
Wednesday, January 11, 2006

11:00 am to 3:30 pm
City of Palm Coast Community Center • 305 Palm Coast Parkway NE, Palm Coast

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SEMINARS
Friday, January 27, 2006

10:00 am to 12:00 noon
St. Johns County Administration Building • 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine

2:30 to 4:30 pm
Advanced Technology Center • 1770 Technology Boulevard, Daytona Beach

EXPORT & TRADE PROMOTION SEMINAR
Monday, January 30, 2006

9:00 to 11:00 am
AAA Headquarters • 1000 AAA Drive, Lake Mary

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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Standard

U.S. CONGRESS

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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense

CONGRESSMAN JOHN L. MICA Reports from Washington 7th Congressional District



How To Reach Your Congressman

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(386) 246-6042

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St. Augustine, FL 32084-8600
(904) 810-5048

ORANGE/SEMINOLE
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Maitland, FL 32751-4495
(407) 657-8080

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613 St. Johns Ave, Rm 107
Palatka, FL 32177-4643
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Dear Friends,

As the first session of the 109th Congress concludes, I wanted to report to you on some of my activities and work as your Representative.

While the media has focused on Iraq and partisan conflicts, I have kept very busy this year working to pass a major new transportation bill, improve our aviation industry and expand jobs and economic opportunity in our district, state and nation. With regard to Iraq, I voted along with 402 other Members against the immediate withdrawal of our troops. By not setting an artificial deadline and finishing our mission, and by supporting our troops and the President, the United States will in the long run be better able to confront the threat of radical international terrorism.

My goals in Congress continue to be lowering your tax burden, reducing federal bureaucracy and waste, and eliminating excessive regulation and litigation. Bringing down health care costs and getting control of our borders must be priorities of the 2006 Session. While some progress has been made on the national budget, spending and deficit issues, much work remains to keep us from further mortgaging our children's future.

In our District, numerous community projects have kept me occupied. A number of them are detailed in this report. As you may know, the 7th Congressional District covers six counties and includes some of the fastest growing areas in the United States.

It is an important responsibility to keep up with the transportation, infrastructure and community needs of our large and growing population, but I enjoy the challenge. Every day I am encouraged and grateful when meeting countless heroes who serve our nation, citizens who work hard to provide for their families, and local and state leaders who help build our communities. How fortunate we are as a nation to have these individuals and millions of senior citizens and veterans whose sacrifices have helped make America strong. It continues to be my privilege to serve you and them.

With the new year and as the next session of Congress convenes in January, please know that I always welcome your comments and suggestions.

With my regards and best wishes,

John L. Mica
Member of Congress

Seniors New Prescription Drug Benefits

What if I already have prescription drug coverage?

If you currently have prescription drug coverage and are pleased with the terms and prices, you may not want to consider the new Medicare Prescription Drug plan. **No one is required to change their prescription drug coverage.** However, if you feel your prescription insurance premiums are too high, you may want to consider the new Medicare Part D that now provides prescription coverage.

What do I need to know?

To receive the new Medicare prescription drug coverage, you must choose and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. To find out which plan better serves you, contact the Florida Department of Elder Affairs at **1-800-963-5337** or visit **www.medicare.gov** on the web. Please know, you must register by May 15, 2006, to receive coverage without paying a fee.

As with all insurance programs there are premiums and co-pays associated with your coverage. However, many people with limited incomes will qualify for help with these expenses.

How can I get more information?

For more information on how to get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call the Social Security Administration at **1-800-772-1213** or visit **www.socialsecurity.gov** on the web.

WARNING! Seniors have been targeted by some groups who ask for money to help defend their Social Security or Medicare benefits - DO NOT SEND these organizations money. Instead of spending your hard-earned money, send your own postcard, letter or email, or call your Representative directly if you have questions about your benefits or proposals in Congress.

Update on Veterans Issues

New VA Hospital – A site selection committee is now reviewing proposed locations in Central Florida. Congress has approved \$25 million for initial planning and design. In response to our requests, Central Florida veterans leaders are providing input as a new hospital is sited and planned.

Veterans Health Care – With an additional \$1.6 billion provided by Congress, VA health care programs will receive \$22.5 billion for improved medical care, outpatient clinic facilities and hospital services.

Daytona VA Clinic Expansion - The expanded William V. Chappell, Jr. VA Outpatient Clinic will open in early 2006. This 10,000 square foot expansion will include a new optometry clinic as well as new physicians, nurses and other health professionals.



Rep. Mica participated in the groundbreaking of the new VA Outpatient Clinic in Daytona Beach, along with community officials and veterans leaders from Volusia County and Daytona Beach.

Florida VA Cemetery – VA officials are now making final land evaluations, assessments and environmental surveys on the narrowed list of possible cemetery sites. A final decision on the new cemetery location is expected in the coming months, and construction will soon follow.

Community Activities

7th Congressional District Washington Fly-In

In May, more than 70 business and community leaders from the 7th Congressional District met in Washington, D.C. with House and Senate leaders, as well as with Administration officials, to bring attention to issues important to Northeast and Central Florida.



Pictured with Rep. Mica are 2005 Chamber of Commerce Fly-In participants: Daytona Beach/Halifax, West Volusia, Flagler County, Putnam County, Seminole County Regional, St. Johns County, Winter Park, Ormond Beach, and Sanford.

2005 Artistic Discovery Congressional Art Competition

More than 160 students from 14 high schools in Central and Northeast Florida participated in this year's 7th Congressional District Art Competition. This popular artistic exhibition is held annually as part of a nationwide event sponsored by participating Members of Congress.

The 2005 winners of the 7th Congressional District Art Contest are Matt Garriss from St. Augustine High School and Tiffany Urquhart of Seabreeze High School in Maitland. Both art pieces by Matt and Tiffany are now on display in our Nation's Capitol.



Rep. Mica with art contestants at the San Mar Gallery in St. Augustine. High school students also showed their art works at the Casa Feliz in Winter Park.

Preservation of Castillo de San Marcos

The National Park Service has completed a General Management Plan for the Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest existing permanent seacoast fortification in the continental United States. Public presentations will begin in January and citizens will be able to provide their comments. Watch for dates and locations for the presentations.

Along with the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, the City of St. Augustine and the National Park Service, Rep. Mica will be working to secure Department of Interior support to improve visitor facilities.

The 2004 "Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act" authored by your Congressman makes preservation of the historic monument, expansion of the park areas and construction of a visitors and education center a national priority.

District Nominees for Service Academies

Congressman Mica has nominated 7th Congressional District high school seniors to the four major service academies: the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy. Each academy will make final appointments in Spring, 2006. Congratulations to these outstanding student candidates!

United States Military Academy

Schuyler Brown – Ormond Beach

John Fatz – Altamonte Springs

Jay Lewis – St. Augustine

Dean Lisante – Ponte Vedra Beach

Andrew Meyer — St. Augustine

Samantha Palmer – DeBary

David Thompson – Fruit Cove

Ryan Ulses – St. Augustine

Michael Vecchi – Ormond Beach

United States Naval Academy

Stephanie Cook-Wright — Deltona

Tyler Gulliksen – Ormond Beach

Peter Hughes – Maitland

Cameron Kellermann – Fruit Cove

Jay Lewis – St. Augustine

Shawn Polke – Lake Mary

Ryan Ulses – St. Augustine

Kevin Undeck – Longwood

United States Air Force Academy

Adam Brunderman – Longwood

John Fatz – Altamonte Springs

Cameron Kellermann – Fruit Cove

Kristi Kemp – Fruit Cove

Dean Lisante – Ponte Vedra Beach

AJ Morosco – Ormond Beach

Cristina Richter – Longwood

David Thompson – Fruit Cove

Kevin Undeck – Longwood

Christopher Welch – Longwood

United States Merchant Marine Academy

Cason Parker – Ormond Beach

Transportation Update

Florida Receives A Better Return on Its Federal Gas Tax Dollars

Congress has completed work on a new six-year federal highway law. This historic measure provides Florida a significant increase in federal commitment to transportation improvements. Your Representative helped lead the effort to ensure Florida receives a more fair share of federal highway funds without increasing any existing gas taxes.

By law, 18.4 cents of every dollar in gas you pay for at the pump is collected in federal gas taxes and sent to Washington, DC where it is deposited into the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Of these funds, 80% is reserved for highway projects and the remaining 20% for mass transit projects. About every six years Congress approves a new formula that determines how much each state gets back in federal highway funds. Mass transit funds are distributed to communities that have federally approved projects.

Update on the Central Florida Commuter Rail

Progress has been made in the development of a commuter rail system that would extend 65 miles from Volusia to Osceola County on existing CSX tracks.

The State of Florida, the Volusia Metropolitan Planning Organization, VOTRAN, MetroPlan Orlando and LYNX have all acted in support of the Central Florida Commuter Rail System. In addition, the City of Orlando and Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Osceola Counties have each voted to provide financial support for the further development of the proposed project.

Initial service would operate during rush hours. The first leg would serve the Deltona/DeBary area to downtown Orlando with 9 stations, and the project would utilize self-propelled commuter rail vehicles, a new technology that makes the project eligible for additional federal support.

Over \$317 million in State and federal funds have been pledged. Using the contract authority of South Florida's Tri-Rail, equipment has been ordered.

Preliminary Design and Engineering work will be underway in 2006. This phase will take approximately a year to complete. The State of Florida is leading negotiations with CSX to acquire track rights-of-way and eventually to move rail freight traffic from the corridor.

Transit Improvements

Public Transit Summit

Rep. Mica brought together transportation officials from Jacksonville and Duval, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia Counties in September for a forum in Palatka that focused on improving regional public transit services. Follow-up projects include connecting bus services between adjacent counties and new local service routes to connect with Greyhound long distance service.

St. Johns County Council on Aging

Federal funds will help procure new transit coaches and will assist in the construction of a new bus operations center.

Putnam County Ride Solutions

With \$3.5 million in federal transit funds, Ride Solutions will upgrade its 32-vehicle fleet with new buses and improve its public transportation services.

Flagler Senior Services

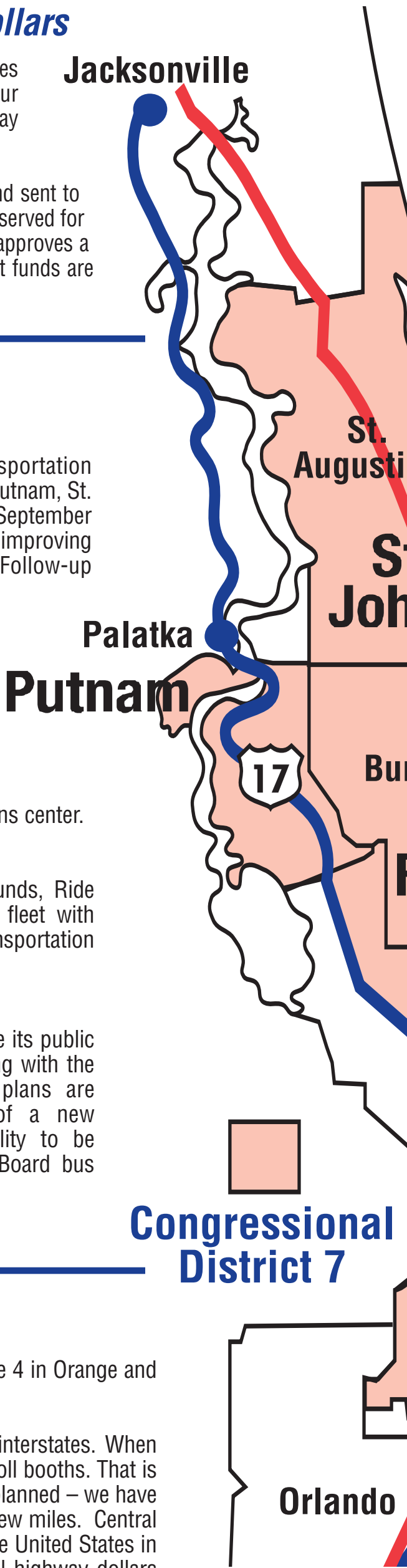
Flagler County will continue to upgrade its public transit services with federal help. Along with the purchase of new transit coaches, plans are proceeding for the construction of a new administrative and maintenance facility to be located adjacent to the new School Board bus garage and fuel depot in Bunnell.

Interstate Toll Ban

In the new federal highway law, your Congressman included a prohibition on tolling of Interstate 4 in Orange and Seminole Counties.

Federal gas taxes should be used primarily for the construction and maintenance of federal interstates. When Floridians pay tolls to access major interstates, they pay twice - once at the pump and again at toll booths. That is unfair by any standard. Central Florida currently has 153 miles of toll roads and 20 more miles planned - we have toll roads to the east, west, south and soon the north. Jacksonville has none, and Tampa just a few miles. Central Florida even exceeds both Dade and Broward Counties, and nearly every metropolitan area in the United States in toll road mileage. Furthermore, any new interstate toll lane in the 7th District will send federal highway dollars elsewhere.

Rather than pay new tolls to access the free interstate system, Central and Northeast Florida taxpayers deserve a better return from both Washington and Tallahassee. With help from Rep. Mica, Florida will receive an additional \$2.3 billion under the new federal highway law.



Highway Improvements

I-295 / SR 9A Exit Lanes

Northeast Florida commuters will benefit from a continuous beltway (I-295) around the Jacksonville metropolitan area with completion of the SR 9A project. To ensure commuter safety at the congested intersection with I-95, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration has approved expansion of exit lanes at the intersection of I-95, which will begin in early 2006.

SR 9B Extension, St. Johns County

A proposed new connector, the SR 9B Extension will provide an alternative northeast route from the Race Track Road/I-95 junction, east of Fruit Cove, to intersect with the new beltway south of Baymeadows Road in Duval County. Federal funds will help expedite the project, providing residents of northern St. Johns County much-needed access to the Interstate.

U.S. 1 Interchange at CR 210, St. Johns County

A new interchange spanning Florida East Coast Railroad tracks and U.S. 1 will help reduce traffic congestion and hopefully will prevent a future major bottleneck. With the 4-laning of CR 210 both east and west of U.S. 1, federal funds will expedite design and construction of the proposed interchange. Everything possible is being done to expand exit lanes in the near future to ensure safety and reduce congestion while work is proceeding.

SR 312 Extension/Bypass, St. Johns County

Construction of an extension of SR 312, from its current junction with SR 207 to SR 16, will be advanced with federal assistance. A new half-loop beltway around St. Augustine will relieve traffic along U.S. 1 and the downtown area.

U.S. Highway 17, Putnam County

Both State and federal support have been obtained to expedite widening improvements on U.S. 17 to the Volusia County line.

I-95 Widening

The 6-laning of I-95 has been completed from Jacksonville through St. Johns County. The \$46.5 million widening in Flagler County began in January, 2005, and is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2007. I-95 is also being widened from the Flagler County line to U.S. 92, with that \$47.5 million work to be finished in the Spring, 2006.

I-95/Palm Coast Parkway Overpass, Flagler County

Widening of this overpass and road will help reduce traffic congestion in the north Palm Coast community. Congress has approved federal funds to expedite this \$6.25 million project.

I-95/Matanzas Woods Parkway Overpass, Flagler County

Construction of this overpass will aid Flagler County by reducing traffic congestion at a major chokepoint. With County funding, this \$6.7 million project has begun and will be completed in June, 2006. Both State and federal funds will reimburse Flagler County for project costs, benefitting local taxpayers.

Rep. Mica joined State, County and local officials in the June groundbreaking of the I-95/Matanzas Woods Parkway Overpass.

I-4 Frontage Road, Volusia County

A federal grant will help construct a new road to interconnect 3 major I-4 interchanges in the DeLand-Orange City corridor on both U.S. 17-92 and I-4. The connector will extend from the SR 472 interchange through Orange Camp Road and to the I-4/SR 44 interchange.

I-4/SR 44 Overpass, Volusia County

The last phase of the 4-laning of SR 44 from I-95 to I-4 nears completion with replacement of the I-4/SR 44 overpass scheduled to be finished in Spring, 2006.

Regional Aviation

In May, Rep. Mica convened an aviation forum at the Orlando Sanford International Airport with regional airport officials to review planned projects and examine future aviation needs. With passenger traffic at record levels and expected to grow, the forum focused on meeting airport infrastructure requirements.

Orlando Sanford International Airport & Greater Orlando International Airport

The Orlando Sanford International Airport continue to receive FAA grants for rehabilitating runways and upgrades that will improve safety. Greater Orlando International Airport has received reimbursement for costs for runway construction that expand the capacity of the airport for commercial aviation services.

New ILS at Daytona Beach Airport

After securing initial permits and completing studies, construction should begin in the Spring to replace the Instrument Landing System at the Daytona Beach International Airport. This equipment upgrade will improve flight operations and safety and will reduce noise levels.

Palatka Airport

Palatka Airport will receive \$650,000 in 2006 for the construction of a new terminal operations building.



5-1-1 Traffic Information

The 5-1-1 traffic information system currently available on Interstate 4 is being expanded to many other highways. Drivers can dial 5-1-1 on their phones or log on to www.fl511.com to learn traffic conditions. Coverage includes more than 200 miles of major highways in Central Florida including I-4 and I-95, toll roads, S.R. 436 and S.R. 50, and U.S. 17-92. Also available will be quick connections to automated customer service lines at Orlando International Airport, Orlando Sanford International Airport, LYNX and Port Canaveral.

Federal Assistance for District Projects

Volusia

Beautification of SR A1A

A beautification project will be completed on A1A in Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach and Daytona Beach Shores.

Daytona Beach Shores Beach Renourishment

Additional federal resources will help continue preliminary work necessary for the restoration of the Volusia County shoreline north of Ponce Inlet.

DeBary Gateway for the Arts

A new Gateway Center for the Arts will be constructed at the corner of Saxon Boulevard and Highway 17-92. This educational and arts facility will house exhibit halls, classrooms, performance areas and studios for artists of many disciplines. Also being considered in the design is use of the structure for an emergency evacuation shelter.

Volusia Defense Industry

Congress has approved funding to help meet national security requirements. Anti-submarine sonobuoys and ground trainers are produced by Sparton Electronics and Raydon Corporation in Volusia County under U.S. defense contracts.

Volusia National Guard Center

Working with the City of Daytona Beach, a site selection is underway to move the Florida National Guard from its old downtown waterfront location to a new modern Armed Forces Reserve Center.

One Voice for Volusia

Additional federal grant funds have been provided to Once Voice for Volusia to combat juvenile drug abuse and to provide at risk youth with mentor services.

Volusia Research Park

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the City of Daytona Beach, Volusia County and the Volusia County School System are working to establish a high-tech research park adjacent to the Daytona Beach International Airport. Property has been acquired and site plans are being developed.

Daytona Beach Homeless Forum

To address the increasing number of homeless individuals and families, a public forum was held in Daytona Beach in August in cooperation with the North Street Homeless Coalition. Volusia County and city officials as well as community leaders discussed efforts to improve resources and services for the region's homeless. Followup activities include improvements to job training and substance abuse, mental health and veterans program services.

New Bus for Strong Tower Ministries

Rep. Mica, working together with the Volusia County School Board and VOTRAN, helped secure a refurbished bus to meet the transportation needs of the Strong Tower Ministries of Seville. This community-based organization provides after-school care and programs for West Volusia youth and senior citizens.



Pictured with the staff and children of the Strong Tower Ministries, Rep. Mica hands the keys for a refurbished bus to Doris Brantley, Executive Director of the organization.

Seminole

Eastern Connector Study

Federal approval was granted to study the feasibility of constructing a new limited access highway in East Central Florida to connect the GreeneWay in Seminole County and I-95. As an alternative to I-4 and U.S. 17-92, the new link could help with mounting traffic congestion in Volusia County.

Orange

Reconstruction of Winter Park Intersections

With federal support, the Orange Avenue/Fairbanks Avenue and the Orange Avenue/Denning Street intersections in downtown Winter Park will be reconstructed to resolve significant traffic bottlenecks.

US 17-92 Improvements in Maitland

The reconfiguration of intersections on U.S. 17-92 to relieve traffic congestion and safety problems in downtown Maitland has received federal backing.

Substandard Public Housing Targeted

Your Congressman does not believe that the federal government should condone substandard public housing with taxpayer funding, nor should it be a slumlord. In that regard, a district-wide initiative has been launched to dramatically improve public housing for some of our neediest citizens.

Daytona Beach Housing Authority

Within 23 months, after decades of delay, approval and demolition of 390 pre-World War II public housing units is underway. Federal grant funds, along with private donations and tax credits, are being used to help the Daytona Beach Housing Authority redevelop Bethune Village and Halifax Park. New apartments will be built with modern and contemporary appliances and hopefully will all be completed by the end of 2006. The first new units are now being occupied.

Sanford Housing Authority

After receiving complaints about conditions and mismanagement, Rep. Mica requested that U.S. HUD assume control of the Sanford Housing Authority in 2003. The federal government has completed major renovations to improve living conditions. Most of the housing units have been re-occupied and control of the Housing Authority has been returned to the City of Sanford. Improved daycare, job training and after school programs are pending projects.

St. Johns County and Flagler Village

Dramatic improvements have been completed on all 76 units of St. Augustine's oldest subsidized public housing complex, Flagler Village in West Augustine, with assistance from the St. Johns County Department of Housing and Community Services and U.S. HUD.

Palatka Housing Authority

Federal approval has been obtained and Palatka City officials are working to replace the aging Frank George Apartments public housing high rise and to relocate senior residents to dramatically better housing. An economic redevelopment project is being planned to help spur restoration and economic development in downtown Palatka.



The Vernons receive a key to a new home purchased through the Daytona Beach Hope VI Program. From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, Daytona Beach Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, Rep. Mica, Daytona Beach Housing Authority Chairman Norma Lewis and Executive Director Pete Gamble, and City Commissioner Dwayne Taylor.

St. Johns

Environmental Learning Center

Cutting the ribbon to open the Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas Refuge’s Environmental Learning Center was a special occasion in September. With federal support, this facility includes classrooms, a library, teaching and working laboratories, and other resources to accommodate students and visitors.



The ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of a new Environmental Learning Center at the Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Pictured with Rep. Mica are federal, State and local Reserve officials.

St. Johns County Shoreline

With emergency funds approved by Congress in place, work began in June to restore damage at St. Augustine Beach after recent storms and hurricanes. Those repairs will be completed in 2006. Also under review are the costs and benefits of additional beach renourishment to the north and south.

St. Augustine to East Palatka Rail Trail

Federal funds are in place to help expedite the construction of a rail trail that will connect conservation areas with local parks, including Anastasia State Park, Vilano Beach and Railroad Park in Hastings.

Defense Funds for Northrop Grumman

In support of national defense requirements, Congress approved additional work to be performed by Northrop Grumman on military aircraft, such as the EA-6B and the E-2C Hawkeye, which protect our U.S. Armed Forces from enemy attacks.

BCC Spuds Campus Luncheon

Rep. Mica hosted Bethune-Cookman College's new President, Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, and community officials to discuss program improvements at the College's campus in Spuds.

Anti-Drug Grant

With the active support of local and federal officials, additional resources have been obtained for St. Johns County to fight illegal substance abuse. The funds are being used to combat juvenile drug abuse and to educate young people on the dangers of illegal narcotics.

West Augustine Weed & Seed

A recognition event was held in July at R.J. Murray Middle School to mark West Augustine’s federal designation by the Department of Justice as a “Weed and Seed” community, which will help eliminate illegal drugs and revitalizing the community.

St. Augustine VIC Parking Garage

A groundbreaking was held for the construction of a new Visitors Information Center and Parking Garage in St. Augustine. The facility will be completed in Summer of 2006 and will house 1,177 parking spaces.

Boys and Girls Club Presentation

A grant will support mentor and after-school activities for low income students at the St. Johns Chapter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.



Deborah Verges, President of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, joined Rep. Mica and several West Augustine youth in the presentation of a grant for the Boys and Girls Club of St. Johns.

Flagler

Palm Coast Trail System

Along with the City of Palm Coast and with federal support, a comprehensive trail system will be developed to connect environmental areas and recreational facilities throughout the region.

US 1/SR 100 Connector in Bunnell

Planning is underway for the construction of interchange improvements at the junction US 1 and SR 100 in Bunnell to address severe traffic congestion at this chokepoint. This project has federal authorization in the new Highway bill.

Flagler Airport Park

Your Congressman addressed the first graduating class from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s advanced student flight training center, now located to the Flagler Airport in Bunnell. This facility provides high paying jobs and is graduating pilots with advanced skills.

Stuart F. Meyer Hospice

Local officials, the Meyers Family and the Flagler community attended an April groundbreaking for the construction of the Stuart F. Meyer Hospice House, which will serve as a home for terminally ill patients who are no longer able to receive treatment. Federal funds will help expedite completion of this residential center, scheduled for November of 2006.

Flagler Youth Coalition

With substance abuse a continuing challenge, the Flagler Youth Coalition received its first direct federal grant to help fight illegal substance abuse and to provide mentor services to young people.

Putnam

Putnam County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

After recent storms, the need for improved emergency facilities and communications equipment in Putnam County has become apparent. With federal assistance, the Putnam County Emergency Operations Center can secure state-of-the-art equipment to facilitate regional management, planning and response during times of disaster.

SR 20/CR 309C/SR 100 Connector in Palatka

To expand development in the area, improving access to Palatka’s Kay Larkin Municipal Airport and the adjacent Putnam County Business Park is underway with federal support. Work is proceeding with the extension of County Road 309-C to connect State Road 20 to State Road 100.

Putnam County Scholarships Luncheon

In conjunction with the Putnam County School Board, some of our deserving and economically disadvantaged students will have access to college. A new academic scholarship program has been created to provide middle school students with four years of college tuition.

Welaka Medical Services Facility

Federal assistance is being provided to help secure medical care for rural area citizens in the Welaka area. As a replacement for the current temporary clinic, a new permanent primary care facility will hopefully open in 2006 and will provide convenient and local access to health care.

Washington Update

Report on the Federal Budget

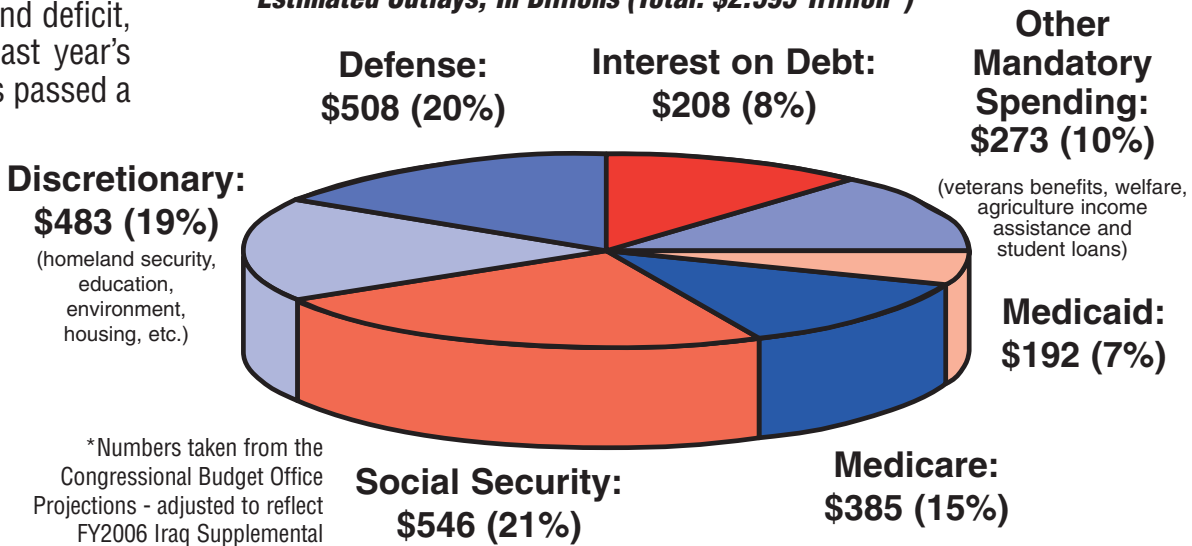
Progress has been made relating to our national budget and deficit, despite media accounts to the contrary. In contrast to last year's failure to adopt a budget and delay in past years, Congress passed a budget in April.

This year discretionary non-security related spending was cut for the first time since the Reagan Administration. The anticipated annual federal deficit was reduced by 25%. Tax relief and incentives along with a resilient economy helped expand revenues to the Federal Treasury by \$100 billion over projected figures. For the first time in more than a decade, Congress has passed individual appropriations bills rather than an omnibus spending package.

Unemployment in Florida is 3.6% and nationally in November it was at 5%. Despite recent and significant natural disasters, economic growth continued. For the 3rd Quarter, our nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 4.3% and personal income in September rose by 1.7%.

A Quick Look at the FY 2006 Budget

Estimated Outlays, In Billions (Total: \$2.595 Trillion*)



Laws Passed in 2005

Energy Policy Act – For the first time in decades, Congress has overhauled our nation's energy policies to reduce our reliance on foreign fuels and to encourage cleaner, alternative energy sources. **Voted Yes.**

Class Action Fairness Act – This measure reduces frivolous lawsuits by prohibiting trail lawyers from shopping class action litigation from state to state. **Voted Yes.**

Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act – Our federal bankruptcy laws have been changed to require that those who are reasonably able must pay their debts rather than use the bankruptcy process as a shelter. **Voted Yes.**

Pending Legislation

Immigration Reform – As a top priority in Congress in 2006, your Representative opposes amnesty and benefits for illegal aliens and supports strict enforcement of our immigration laws.

Tax Reform – In the upcoming 2nd session, Congress will begin considering replacement of our current tax structure with a Value Added Tax (VAT) or a national sales tax. Your Congressman does not support elimination of home mortgage or charitable deductions. Other significant reform proposals will also be reviewed.

Job Training Improvement Act – Passed in the House, this legislation continues reforms to welfare and strengthens employment training services so that those who can work have help finding jobs.

Children's Safety Act – Passed in the House, this measure strengthens child safety and protection programs against convicted sex offenders.

Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act – Also passed in the House, this bill makes permanent the repeal of the death tax, which is currently expected to expire at the end of 2010.

United Nations Reform Act – The House has passed this reform proposal to require transparent budgeting and more accountability from United Nations officials.

Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act – Passed in the House, this proposal focuses our justice system on those who commit criminal or unlawful acts by intentionally misusing products such as firearms and prohibits lawsuits against manufacturers of those products.

Aviation Update

Airline Bailouts: Fact vs. Fiction

It is important that fact be separated from fiction regarding so-called government bailouts of U.S. airlines. After the terrorist attacks of 9-11, Congress correctly assessed that the tremendous damage inflicted by terrorists could also financially impact our national economy.

In response, a temporary loan guarantee program was established. In total, \$1.6 billion in loan guarantees were approved for only 6 of the 16 airlines who applied. The taxpayers' position was firmly secured with tough requirements. Loans to 4 airlines have been repaid and the other two are amortizing. Two airlines saved jobs for 38,000 employees.

To date, the federal government has netted over \$220 million on its investment. The loan guarantees to U.S. air carriers helped stabilize an industry and our economy, and have been one of the most successful taxpayer investments in U.S. history.

Cape Town Treaty

As Chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, your Congressman passed national legislation to ensure the United States realizes the benefits of the Cape Town Treaty.

Provisions in this accord provide U.S. aircraft manufacturing industry with new opportunities in the global marketplace. The Treaty requires the use of uniform, modern commercial finance laws in international transactions involving aircraft and aircraft engines. The Treaty levels the playing field.

This change greatly reduces financial risks associated with aircraft and engine sales overseas. Countries acquiring aircraft over the coming years will be able to obtain more affordable commercial credit and lower financing charges for the acquisition of aircraft.

With better financial options and more opportunities abroad, our aviation sector will continue to grow.



Rep. Mica officially greeted the 559th Transportation Detachment, which returned home to Daytona Beach in December from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.